

REMARKS

Administrative Overview

Claims 56-76 were examined in the Office action of September 18, 2006, and are pending. The Office Action Summary page indicates claims 65, 66, 74, and 75, are objected to; however, it is apparent from the text of the Office Action that claims 66, 67, 74, and 75 are objected to. Applicants request clarification, but proceed assuming that claims 66, 67, 74, and 75 stand as "objected to."

Without acquiescing to any of the rejections, Applicants amend independent claims 56 as indicated in the Listing of Claims to include the limitations of objected-to claim 66 and intervening claim 65, except that Applicants replace the word "springs" with "mechanical modeling elements". This amendment is supported in the specification as originally filed, for example, in the sentence at page 7, lines 11-14, reproduced as follows:

The springs may

include linear springs, torsional springs, and/or other springs. Other mechanical modeling elements -- for example, dashpots and/or sliders -- may be used instead of springs or in combination with springs.

Dependent claim 65 is amended to specify, "wherein the mechanical modeling elements comprise springs," and dependent claim 66 is amended to specify, "wherein the mechanical modeling elements comprise one or more members selected from the group consisting of springs, dashpots, and sliders", as indicated in the Listing of Claims.

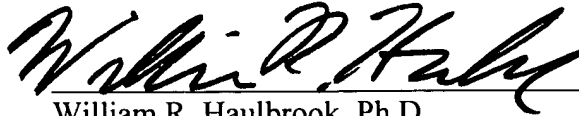
Similarly, without acquiescing to any of the rejections, Applicants amend independent claim 70 as indicated in the Listing of Claims to include the limitations of objected-to claim 74 and intervening claim 73, except replacing the word "springs" with "mechanical modeling elements", and applicants amend dependent claims 73 and 74. The amendments are supported in the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 7, lines 11-14.

CONCLUSION

Applicants contend this amendment places the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and objections, and allowance of claims 56-76 in due course. The Examiner is hereby cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Appl. No. 10/733,862
Response dated December 6, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Haulbrook", written over a horizontal line.

William R. Haulbrook, Ph.D.

Attorney for Applicant

Goodwin Procter LLP

Exchange Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Customer No. 051414

Date: December 6, 2006
Reg. No. 53,002

Tel. No.: (617) 570-1013
Fax No.: (617) 523-1231

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